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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

January 1, 1976, Issue No. 1

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Finny Musclemen

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 11, No. 1 January 1st, 1976

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ABOUT THE COVER: Doc Muller holds a 12-pound barracuda on a gaff that took a Whip-Tail at Walker's Cay. See the article "Finny Musclemen" on page 16.

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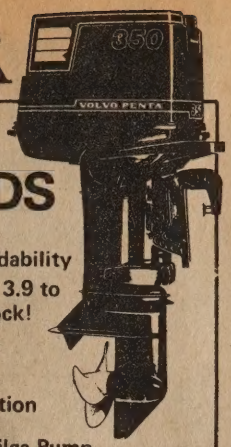
VOLVO PENTA



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

Chum Lines

ICE FISHING OFFER

I have been reading your publication for quite a few years, during which time many letters have appeared from people young and old, looking for places to fish or someone to teach them how. I wonder if anyone ever contacts these folks with a serious offer to take them out.

Well, here it is a serious offer for the strong of heart—only SERIOUS fishermen need apply! For the past 10 years or so I and a few select friends, have been turning the "winter doldrums" into a fun time by Ice Fishing nearby Westchester County lakes. Because some friends have moved away and others work on weekends, I am in need of people to accompany me on these exursions.

I am well equipped with all necessary gear, including a power ice auger (drill)—all the prime fishing areas have been explored, and I have the knowledge and experience to teach this interesting and rewarding sport.

So that only the serious fisherman out there will call, I tell them this—some days you'll work hard (real hard), some you'll be cold (Damn cold), some days despite anything you do, you'll be cold and fishless. But when things fall together (as they often to) you'll stand on a frozen lake in 40 degree temperatures with the sun shining and pull fish as fast as you can turn the reel handle or run to your tip-ups.

Anybody out there interested? Call me any evening after 6 P.M. at (212) 463-3266. **Rodger L. Nelson, College Point.**

MORE SICK REMEDIES

In your last issue you had an article about sea sickness. I used to get sick every trip out, no matter which boat I went on. I tried all the pills on the market including a few prescriptions I got from my Doctor, which were no help. I have been putting up with this for about two years. I keep going to the Doctor to find an answer but no help, so I finally tried something told to me by a Captain out of Barnegat light basin. The last resort was Hypnotism. I went to a Hypnotist here in town and told him my problem and paid him 2 visits of 1 hour each for $10. Now I enjoy good fishing with the rest of them in full comfort and relaxation. No sickness last week where we went on our 12th trip since I went to the Hypnotist. On this trip for cod, the wind was blowing fiercly and there were a heck of a lot of people laying around sick. I fished all day long with no problem even though the sea and wind were really kicking it up thanks to my Hypnotism visits. Now I go fishing with the rest of the men feeling just fine. Boy, am I glad that I didn't have to to give up fishing. *N.I. Schaffer, PA.*

Did he give you a lollipop after each visit?

News Releases

FISHING COURSE

You are invited to attend the Long Island Salt Water Fishing and Safety Courses sponsored by Flotilla 13-4 to be held in Woodmere Junior High School North on Peninsula Boulevard (west of Mill Road). Class will meet on Thursdays at 8 P.M. to 10 P.M. starting January 29th.

Registration will take place at Hewlett Woodmere High School Cafeteria on January 13th and 15th also prior to the first class at 7:30 P.M. on January 29th in Woodmere Junior High School North. A charge of $8 will be made to cover cost of course materials and honorariums.

As far as the course outline goes, on January 29th—Chet Zawacki will be the Lecturer—Assoc. Aquatic Biologist—S Sports Fisherman: Stony Brook Univ., Bay fishing, Identifications, Natural Bait, Rigs, Basic Fishing Techniqes, The ABC's of Long Island Fishing.

On February 5th, Al Ristori of Garcia Corp will be the Lecturer, Weakfish, Tuna, Striped Bass, Blue Fish, Artificial Lures, Tackle, Casting, Fish Spotting, Special Rigs, How to save time, gas and catch the big ones.

On February 19th, Richard Mermon of Shakespeare Corp will be Lecturer on topics of Live Bait, Fishing for Striped Bass, Techniques and baits all year, Surf fishing with live bait, How to rig up.

On February 26th Dave Kofler, Past Commander of U.S.C.G. Aux. Flotilla 13-4 and South Shore Fishing Expert will be lecturer on topics of When and Where to Fish for flounder both winter and summer, Fluke, special secrets, how to rig up, baits, tackle and time of day.

On March 4th, Oscar Amoroso, Well known charter boat captain who operates out of Atlantic Beach and Gloucester, Mass will be lecturer. He specializes in topics in Bluefish, Giant Tuna and Shark Fishing. All forms of bluefishing will be discussed if time permits.

On March 11th, Dave Kofler will be lecturer on topics such as Practical Knot tieing, How to tie hook, sinker, leads and lures. How to fish and boat safely with special emphasis on the most common fishermen related accidents.

For further information call (516) 889-0249 or 374-1991.

USCGA BOATING COURSE SEAFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Flotilla 13-8, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct the following courses at Seaford High School starting January 20, 1976:

12-Lesson Boating Safety and Seamanship. 3-Lesson Outboard Engine Maintenance. 3-Lesson Inboard Engine Maintenance. 4-Lesson N.Y.S. Young Boatmans Course.

Registration will be January 12, 13, 14 at 8:00 P.M. at the High School located on Seaman Neck Road in Seaford. Late registration and starting date for classes will be 8:00 P.M. January 20th. For further information call the Public Relation Officer at (516) 546-2404.

BOATING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

Flotilla commander Harry Frankel has announced that the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a free Public Education Class dealing with Boating Skills and Boating Safety. Classes will commence on Monday night, February 2, 1976 and will be of 2 hour duration. Course will run for 16 weeks. The course will be rendered in the clubhouse of the Excelsior Yacht Club, which is located at the Foot of 26th Avenue and Belt Parkway Service Road, in Brooklyn. Anyone desiring further information should phone Comm. Frankel, any business day between the hours of 9:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. at 868-8853.

BOATING COURSE IN EAST ISLIP

Flotilla 15 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a twelve (12) lesson Boating Safety and Seamanship course at the East Islip Public Library, 381 Montauk Highway, East Islip, New York, (just west of Hecksher Spur). This course begins on Tuesday, January 13, 1976 at 7:30 P.M. Anyone at least 16 years of age, or over is welcome. For additional information call, Ted Blank at (516) 231-6787.

BOATING COURSE

A twelve lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship course will be given by Flotilla 22-3 of Coast Guard Auxiliary on Tuesday evening at Cold Spring Harbor High School at 8:00 P.M., beginning January 6th, 1976. The course will cover boat handling, rules of the road, aids to navigation, engine maintenance, sail, and marlinspike seamanship. Young boatsmen are welcome. For information call 421-4374 or 935-2479.

CLUB NEWS

DOGHOUSE FISHING CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the last meeting of the Doghouse Fishing Club, 31 Hugh Grant Circle, Bronx, NY., the following officers were selected for the coming season:

Commodore—Bob Lenz. Vice Commodore—Bud Charles. Tres.—Ed Tracy and Secretary—John Thomas.

The winners of trophies for the '75 season were 1st—Jim McCullough, 2nd—Bud Charles and Bob Lenz and 3rd—Foster Fulton, Ira Reed and Jim Berger.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS CLUB AWARDS

The Huntington Angler's Club held their annual Dinner-Dance at the Elk's Club in Huntington on December 6th at which time the yearly awards were given out as follows:

For striped bass from a boat, Mike Macchiaroli received an award. This bass was 47 pounds. For a 15 lb. 12 oz. bluefish from a boat an award went to Joe McMenomen. Bluefish from the surf award went to Bob Parent for his bluefish of 15 lbs. 7 oz. Flounder award went to Dan Marro for his fish of 3 lbs. Fluke award also went to Dan Marro for his fish of 6 lbs. 8 oz. Weakfish award went to Bill Collins for his weak of 7 lbs. 6 oz. Blackfish award went to Bill Elsbeck for his black of 9 lbs. 11 oz. and the unusual award went to Mike Deckman for his mullet of 4 lbs. 8 oz.

LOOKING TO JOIN CLUB

I am a new subscriber to the Long Island Fisherman and so far am enyoying reading it very much.

Myself and my fishing buddy are interested in joining a fishing club, and perferably in Brooklyn if possible.

Is it possible to find out the names of these clubs, their location of meetings and again if possible, attend one?

Up until now we do mostly surfing, and I am the owner of a 4-Wheel Drive if it makes any difference in these clubs.

Any information you can pass onto me would be greatly appreciated. **Patrick Gibbon, 1862 East 31st. St., Brooklyn, New York 11234.**

EDITORIAL

Hey Congress, What About The 200 Mile Limit?

'The way I feel, things have come to a pretty pass when an American fisherman not only sees his fish mopped up by these foreign boats but gets sacked in the bargain.' This was the tale of woe told to Frank Keating of the Long Island Press by Capt. Richie Kessinger of the Starstream II.

Briefly, in case you haven't heard about it by now, the Starstream II was almost rammed by a large foreign vessel 15 miles south of Fire Island recently. Although the anticipated collision was narrowly averted, the foreign vessel did cut across one of the Starstream's anchor lines and Capt. Kessinger estimated the loss of anchor and cable at about 500 dollars. The Coast Guard was summoned but according to Capt. Kessinger they had little effect on moving the commercial ships out of harms way. The flagrant disrespect for common sense and common courtesy was displayed when inspite of Starstream's anchor light, and later the international black ball symbol of an anchored vessel, the vessel zeroed in!

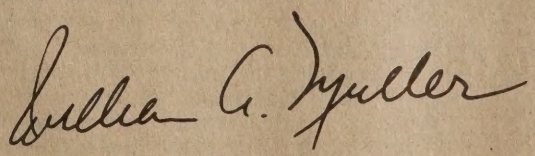
Needless to say the repeated passage of the vessel so close to the partyboat soon cleaned out the fish in the area. But the loss of a day's fishing is the least difficult aspect of this incident to accept. There will always be tomorrow to collect enough codfish steaks for the freezer. No, what concerns us is that their harassment and deliberate attempt to run the Starstream off the fishing grounds put American lives in great jeopardy and there is simply no bureaucratic, political, economic, or diplomatic reason why the Federal Government should allow American lives to be endangered by the whims of a Russian, Polish, or East German captain who has been convinced by the wooing of our State Department that our continental shelf fisheries are their property.

Starstream was fishing beyond the twelve mile limit and certainly, according to existing rules and regulations, the foreign vessels had every right to be there. They do not, repeat—do not—have the right to kill, mame, or destroy people and property.

Anchors, cables and even ships can be replaced, but people can't! Every one of Starstream's passengers were important people out for a day of relaxation on a partyboat to catch a few codfish. Is our Federal Government telling we, the American public, that we are no longer entitled to the guarantees and responsiblities that are spelled out so clearly in The Constitution? We have the responsibility to pay taxes and some of those taxes must go to common defense. Now God knows that we pay our taxes,—so where the Hell is the defense of American taxpayers out for a few laughs and minding their own business!

We, at The Fisherman, are fed up with the hassling, haranguing, and indecision that has come out of Washington with respect to the 200 mile limit. The public has made it clear that they want the 200 mile limit, environmental groups have made it clear that they want the 200 mile limit, some scientists have made it clear that they want the 200 mile limit, and many congressmen and senators have made it clear that they want the 200 mile limit. So where is it! Can the power of one branch of government, so preoccupied with detente, prevent the will of the people from prevailing? This whole thing smells to us like we have come full circle and the King of England is dictating his wishes over and above the needs and will of the people.

Do we have to wait until American blood is shed on our coastal ocean before those "yoyos" in Washington get the message? Happy New Year State Department. We hope you sleep as well after the blood is shed and our fish are gone!



FOOTNOTE: As this issue of L.I.F. was about to go to press we received a report that the Coast Guard has impounded a Polish Trawler found fishing 11 miles south of Fire Island Inlet...but why did it take such a dangerous incident to make the CG enforce even the inadequate 12 mile limit?

Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

Blackfish Seafood Bisque

This is the time of the year when it is possible to catch very big blacks along with some nice cod fish. That is, if you are fishing from one of the party boats out in the ocean. Lord knows, I hadn't set out from Greenport this particular Sunday to catch blacks. My incentive for fishing that day had been an ad in the Press stating that this boat was catching big bass and blues in Plum Gut and/or The Race. So-o-o, I drove myself from Amityville to Greenport, ate my breakfast and set out in the only party boat sailing at the time.

Those on board saw a couple of small crafts which had taken 1 bass each. But try as hard as we could, not one striper came aboard our ship. Finally, the Skipper gave up and took us near the Fisher's Island Race. He anchored and we changed our tackle and put green crabs on our hooks. T'wasn't but a few minutes before I came up with a black about 9 or 10 pounds. It turned out to be a runner-up for the pool. Later I got another about the same size and a small one; fishing for blacks wasn't that "hot".

For some reason I've always had a certain aversion for tautog. Probably didn't cook them properly. The next day I told the secretary of one of my friends, a dentist, of my experience. "Bee" waxed enthusiastic—over blacks and told me how to cook them. I followed her recipe and got enthused myself. It was positively delicious! Here's how!

Black Fish a la "Bee".

First, fillet your fish. Then soak the fillets in beaten egg and then drench in flavored cracker crumbs. Now place them in a skillet in which you've melted a quarter pound of butter or oleo. Fry them until they're golden brown on both sides. Now pour over the fillets one half a cup of white wine (preferably Chablis) and an equal quantity of lemon juice. Place a tight cover on the skillet, turn up the flame slightly and boil for about 3 or 4 minutes until the wine and the juice have permeated the fish. (Some people, Bee told me, like to make a gravy of the liquid which remains in the frying pan. That's up to you.) It really is a delicious dish. Try it.

Fish Fillets Poached In Apple Sauce

Are you kind of bored about eating fish cooked in the old way? Here's a way to make the family sit up and take notice. It is also prepared in such a manner that makes it ideal for use with company.

The fillets of flounder, fluke or cod are rolled into tiny little bundles and lowered into a tangy bath of apple juice for a gentle poaching. To make the flavorful liquid, a mixture of vegetables is first lightly seasoned with a touch of rosemary and then sauteed to a golden softness. Then comes sparkling apple juice, the magic ingredient that produces the sweet but gently tingling flavor that permeates the fish.

After the fillets have cooked to snowy white rolls of tenderness and are removed to a serving platter, the juice mixture is slightly thickened with flour to provide delicious spoon-over sauce.

3 tablespoons butter or oleo
3 scallions, cut fine
¾ cup diced celery
4 cups apple juice
1 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
¼ teaspoon rosemary

3 tablespoons flour
1½ pounds of flounder, fluke or cod fillets

Heat the butter or the margarine in a 10 inch skillet. Add the scallions, celery and carrots and saute over low heat until soft but not browned. Add 3½ cups of apple juice, salt, pepper and rosemary to the vegetables in the skillet and bring to a boil.

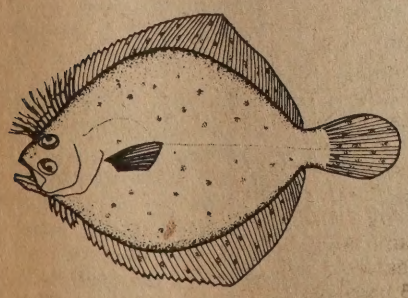
Fold fillets together so that each bundle is one serving and then place in apple juice. Poach below the boiling point until the fish is done (about 5 minutes). Remove to hot platter with a spatula. Mix flour with remaining ½ cup of apple juice and stir into the hot liquid. Bring to a boil and cook and stir until thickened. Pour over the fillets. (Makes 4 servings.)

Seafood Bisque

Of all the soups which I enjoy, I believe the "bisque" to be the "most". It is rich in flavor, smooth to the palate, goes down the gullet so easily and when "down", it possesses nourishing qualities beyond most of the other liquid foods. What could be better than a lobster bisque? That's tops in my book. The main problem is the cost. As an alternative the following recipe fills the bill (and the tummy) in all respects.

¼ cup finely chopped onion
¼ cup finely chopped celery
½ cup melted margarine or butter
2 tablespoons flour
2 cups Pacific pink shrimp, cooked and chopped; or king or Dungeness crabmeat cooked and flaked.
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon paprika
Dash of White Pepper
4 cups of milk (or preferably, 2 cups milk plus 2 cups of half-milk half-cream)

Thaw the shellfish. Cook onion and celery in butter or oleo until tender. Stir in flour and seasonings. Add liquid gradually; cook until thick, stirring constantly. Fold in the seafood. Heat thoroughly and serve at once. This recipe makes 6 servings.



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This is the "Economixer" TM (patent pending), Johnson Outboards' new measuring device for more economical two-cycle gas-lubricant fuel mixing. Made of a sturdy plastic material, the Economixer has three common fuel mixture scales—50/1, 24/1 and 16/1—as well as an ounce and milliliter measure. The scales are calibrated to the gasoline in the fuel mix, so the user has only to fill the Economixer with lubricant to the level indicating the amount of gasoline being mixed to determine the exact amount of lubricant needed—particularly helpful when "topping off" a fuel tank. And the Economixer cap seals both the Economixer and a partially used pint lubricant can. Suggest list price is 79 cents, and it's available from most Johnson Outboards dealers.

Surf Side with John Fritz

WINTER STRIPES

PART TWO

Any of you making the pilgrimage along the beach from Crabmeadow to the Lilco plant at Northport may wonder "it would be nice if only the fish were here instead of having to take that long walk." Well guys that's a big 10-4! In fact I usually give the north side of the Worm Bar a working over either on my way down to or return from the Hot Water. As the winter season progresses and I get lazier, most of my attention will be directed to the area from the stone jetty to the wooden pier to the west.

There are four sections of this beach which attract the most attention of the fishermen who regularly fish here. There are high water and the last is obviously for low water unless you cheat and use a boat. Then again I wouldn't be surprised to see Vito or Ron out there in their wet suits. The last I heard though they "cut the tape."

The worm bar.

First of all there is the stone jetty which has a nice flat top to walk on, although care should be exercised because of the slippery moss which grows on the outer end. This is to be fished at high water exclusively as there is only about 5 feet of water at flood tide. If the fishing is hot and the tide starts dropping you will find guys wading alongside the jetty following the tide as it recedes.

If you are lucky and find no one ahead of you, (this happens usually when there are no fish), move to the end and start casting in a fan shape off the tip. If someone is there before you walk out and, without crowding too much, work the east side casting from 1 o'clock to 3 o'clock in synchronization with those in front of you. This will work if the others know what they are doing—if not, do the best you can.

The whole stretch of beach between the jetty and the pier can produce fish but the western half is favored. Specifically, the area next to the pier itself and the neck formed by the southwest tip of the Worm Bar and the beach. A trip at low tide will show this better than I can explain here.

On top of the pier itself is probably the most popular spot with the regulars even though I don't care to be this high above the water and having to walk your fish back to the beach to land him. A long handled gaff, such as is used under the light at Montauk, probably could be used but a lot of fish are small and sinking a gaff into a short is a NoNo! Remember, you are using light tackle so lifting him is no good.

As I've said this is all high water fishing so far and the favorite side is the top of the ebb with a northeast wind. The stronger the better providing one is able to cast into the teeth of the wind. Going to heavier tackle will give you a little more edge, using larger tin or bucktails.

When the tide is about halfway out it's time to work the outside edge of the Worm Bar. This is the island which emerges on the dropping tide situated between the jetty and pier. If any part of the bar is showing it's possible to wade the stretch of water between. Most of the action takes place off the Northeast corner of the bar. A point extends also to the northeast. Work your way carefully along this casting as you go. I say carefully because there are several submerged boulders scattered around here which have tripped the unwary wader, myself included.

Let me digress a minute with a little story to illustrate this point. A friend of mine from Brooklyn one day last winter decided to see these winter bass for himself. Since it was his first time at Crabmeadow I waded out of the water at his approach to give him a rundown on what was happening. My last words were, "Walk slow Bill, there are some large submerged rocks in front of you." After some dry clothes and a bottle of brandy Bill finally stopped shaking.

These rocks do have a plus side though. The water here is cold unlike the hot water at the discharge so a climb onto the rocks will get your lower half out of the water. Creepers will help you maintain your perch as these rocks are covered with seaweed.

I have caught fish here on all winds but Easterly—northeast is again the best. The reasoning being that with the out-going tide the water moves to the east. This coupled with the northwest wind forces the warmer water from the plant along this bar. Therefore Bass! On many occasions anyway. This hot water entrapment has no money back guarantee. You'll have to pay your dues here as in any place but I do believe that with the right conditions your chances are better here.

These four areas are the most commonly worked spots but as with any fishing location it's a good idea to investigate. You probably noticed there is an inlet to the east. I don't see many working this in the winter but who knows. I've tried here a few times, to no avail. It does look good as a sandbar shows on the falling tide which is cut by the inlet channel.

As with fishing the outflow this is light tackle sport, one handed spinning rods mainly. The predominate lures are small swimming plugs and bucktails. When the wind is really howling in your face tins are all you'll be able to throw. When fishing bucktails off the outer bar the heavier ones tend to sink too close to the bottom picking up the cabbage which

(Continued on page 11.)

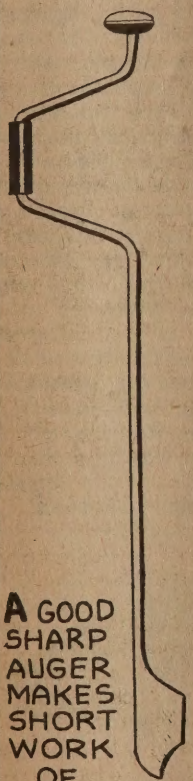
IT'S ICE FISHING TIME

BY FRED GUARDINEER

BASICALLY-TO FISH THROUGH THE ICE - ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS CUT A HOLE AND DROP DOWN A BAITED HANDLINE, BUT A NUMBER OF REFINEMENTS ARE OFFERED TO MAKE THE SPORT COMFORTABLE.

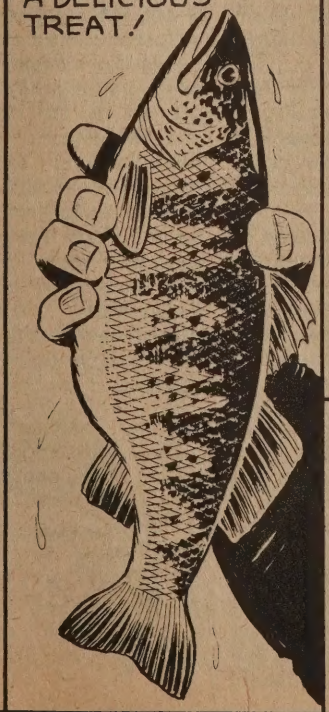
ICE FISHING IS PRODUCTIVE! 56,000 ICE FISHERMEN TOOK 1,800,000 YELLOW PERCH OUT OF LAKE ERIE. THE AVERAGE ANGLER CAUGHT 44 FISH PER TRIP COMPARED TO 3 PER TRIP IN SUMMER.

FISH UNDER THE ICE WILL BE FOUND IN THE SAME LOCATION AS DURING WARM WEATHER. BASS, PANFISH, PICKEREL AND PIKE LIKE WEEDS WHILE WALLEYES PREFER ROCKS - UP TO 20 FT. DEEP.

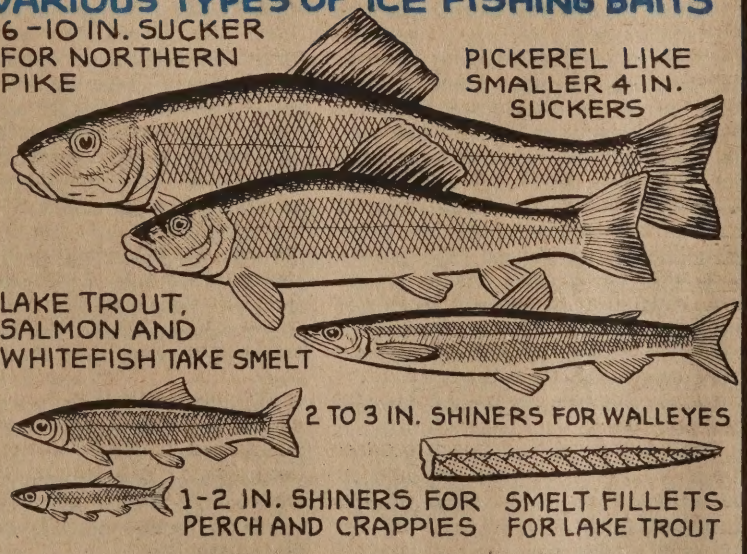


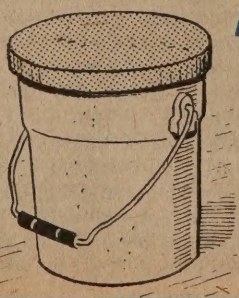
A GOOD SHARP AUGER MAKES SHORT WORK OF CUTTING HOLES IN THE ICE.

YELLOW PERCH ARE THE MOST ABUNDANT FISH UNDER THE ICE AND LATE IN FEBRUARY BECOME SWOLLEN WITH ROE - A DELICIOUS TREAT!



VARIOUS TYPES OF ICE FISHING BAITS


6 - 10 IN. SUCKER FOR NORTHERN PIKE
PICKEREL LIKE SMALLER 4 IN. SUCKERS
LAKE TROUT, SALMON AND WHITEFISH TAKE SMELT
2 TO 3 IN. SHINERS FOR WALLEYES
1-2 IN. SHINERS FOR PERCH AND CRAPPIES
SMELT FILLETS FOR LAKE TROUT



A CARRYALL BUCKETSEAT CAN BE FASHIONED FROM A TALL STRONG RIGID WHITE PLASTIC "YOGURT BUCKET". THESE ARE DISCARDED OR GIVEN AWAY BY DAIRIES AFTER USE. ALSO AVAILABLE FOR A PRICE AT TACKLESTORES. FRESHWATER BAIT STORES STAY OPEN ALL WINTER.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Reflections on '75

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, but much of the time it stunk. In my opinion, that just about sums up the 1975 fishing season, although in all honesty I can't say that it was all that bad for me personally.

Actually, the fishing season was progressing reasonably well until September, and could well have been rated as a "good" year if not for the disastrous fall. The extremely mild weather during the months of September, October and November kept the water temperature unusually warm and cooling very slowly. As a result, species of fish like the striped bass that normally migrate in huge schools when the water temperature begins to drop only moved southward along our shores in a trickle. Another important factor that led to the disastrous fall runs was the super-abundance of baitfish in the water. Small baitfish like the sand eel were at their greatest populations in recent memory, turning the water black with their numbers. As a result, the predators were keeping their bellies full with little effort and showed disinterest in the offerings of the fisherman.

It was the worst of times for flounder in the spring. For reasons unknown (at least to me), the flounder fishing was dismal in comparison to years past, and catches were down in both quantity and size. The fall run of fish was even worse, more like a slow walk, but this was to be more or less expected with the water temperatures experienced. Species like the kingfish and blowfish that have been in a down cycle for several years but showed signs in 1974 of making a comeback disappointed and were all but non existant in 1975 catches.

It was the best of times for the weakfish, which continue to make a remarkable population recovery after almost 30 years of virtual extinction in our waters. 1975 was a banner year in both Great South Bay and the Peconics, and their range has been increasing westward toward Jones Inlet and large populations were in residence at Montauk during mid-summer. The weakfishing couldn't improve, but let's hope it stays at its present peak for awhile before we have another 30 year drought.

Fluke were also in great abundance this summer and the season would have to be rated the best yet for fluke since they started their recovery about five years ago. Granted, they lacked considerably in the size department, but the huge quantities of small fish can only encourage belief in great years of fluking to come. Sandy Hook, the South Shore Bays and Montauk all had excellent years for fluke. Fluke were more abundant than ever at Montauk, but catches were down slightly from those of '74 because of the abundance of baitfish in the water that saw the fish spread out over a wide area with little need to congregate around a bottom formation in search of a meal.

As a whole, it was an excellent year for bluefishing with the exception of the North Shore. The N.Y. Bight and South Shore bluefishing was good to excellent and fish were still being taken in quantity well into November, although few anglers took advantage of this late run of fish. The bluefishing at Montauk was also phenomenal with big blues 8 lbs. and more dominating the catches.

Except for the excellent spring run of fish at Montauk, striped bass fishing in '75 was a dismal failure. Bass fishing on the North Shore could hardly have been worse, and even the local sharpies had trouble putting a single fish in the box at times. (The lack of bunker was the prime reason for the poor year of fishing on the North Shore.) There were few resident fish at Montauk during the summer, and the fall run never materialized to the proportions of years past. Surfcasters had an extremely lean year also, due to the tremendous amounts of baitfish in the water.

Porgy fishing remained at its high peak at Montauk, Guardineers Island and the Peconics and continued to improve in the Sound. Seabass continued their recovery from the recent lean years.

Codfishing this year was another downer, and even such reliable areas at Coxes Ledge failed to produce to expectations. Overall, codfishing has been deteriorating in recent years. This fall on the south shore was much poorer fishing than last.

Blackfishing was excellent in both spring and fall in all areas and seems to have held its own in 1975. It was also a banner year for bergalls, sea robins and dogfish, which only seem to run in a perpetual up-cycle.

Offshore fishing would have to be rated as excellent, particularly off Shinnecock and Montauk. Sharks were abundant as ever with a high proportion of mako's taken. There were quite a few giant tuna taken, but '75 was not nearly as good as '74 for the footballs. Many large white marlin were taken out east, and there were a few short spurts of fantastic swordfishing. An unprecedented nine swordfish ranging from 200 to 480 pounds were brought into the Star Island Yacht Club at Montauk, although many of the fish have been harpooned.

The real disasters of the 1975 fishing season were on the political front. Although bills for a 200 Mile Limit for fishing have been passed by both the Senate and House of Representatives, the Executive Branch remains opposed and it looks like at least another year of inaction will pass. The fiscal crisis of New York State has resulted in a grant cutback to the Montauk Ocean Science Laboratory for Marine Research, and virtually nothing is being spent to preserve one of Long Island's largest industry.

All hope for passing a bill to make the striped bass a gamefish is virtually gone for the forseeable future for a number of reasons: failure of anglers to show their support at the crucial times, excellent organization of commercial fishermen that acted as one and present a strong (and I believe, correct) case against the bill, and the greed of fishermen seeking to have a bill passed who would not try to compromise until it was too late. In 1970 a bill was passed that protected the striper to a large extent, but was vetoed because of childish anglers who didn't get everything they wanted that failed to support it. The next five years were spent fighting for the "whole hog" with the attitude of "only us sportfishermen have a right to catch a striped bass," and now we are further than ever away from getting a bill. As fate would have it, it looks like there is a strong possibility that the striped bass will be protected because they may be unfit for human consumption due to high PCB levels..... Happy New Year!!

Winter Rock Crab Fishing

by John V. Konior

It's been quite a gratifying experience to note the resurgence of the blue claw crab over the past few years. Their stunning re-appearance is quite amazing. From their almost over abundance during the 50's to their almost total disappearance during the 60's and then plentifulness again is remarkable. Virtually everyone enjoys going out after blue claws. They are easy to catch and are fine eating whether boiled, mixed for a salad, etc. And now, alas, the season is almost over althouth blue claws were still being caught into November.

Therefore, as the season for blue claws gears down, the enjoyable sport in catching these tasty crustaceans is forgotten until next season, and with their winter hibernation also goes some fine eating...it all sounds like a very sad tale, but it doesn't have to be. Did you know that there is another species of crab which frequents our local waters that appear just about when the blue claw crab goes into hiding? This crab is generally known as the rock crab or red crab.

The rock crab is practically as abundant as the blue claw crab, and competes in size. The flavor of this crab is quite similar to the blue claw and many of those who have had the opportunity to try them find the meat even more tasty.

Beginning in late October and extending through May the rock crab is supreme. The best time for catching them is during late January through April.

The rock crab may be identified by its reddish/brown color on top, creamy white belly and short stubby claws. When boiled the crab turns a bright red, similar in color to a blue claw when boiled.

The rock crab is not choosy over its environment and can be located off piers and bulkheads, in the surf, in channels and open bay waters, etc.

Methods for catching them are quite similar to those employed for blue claws, i.e., killy rings, crab traps, lines with baited hooks, etc. They can also be caught by scalping off bulkheads.

One advantage he rock crab has over the blue claw is that it is not nearly as shy as the blue claw. The rock crab can literally be lifted into a boat or dragged ashore without letting go. They are also not as aggresive or grouchy as a blue claw, perhaps because the colder water dulls their reflexes, so they can be handled with much less care or fear of losing a finger. Caution should still be exercised when handling, however.

As mentioned previously, catching methods for rock crabs are similar to those for catching blue claws:

PIER OR BULKHEADS

Good areas are the fishing piers at Jones Beach, Captree and Robert Moses State Park, but any pier or bulkhead adjoining open water will do. Use crab traps or rings baited with any fish, shucked clams, or squid. If you should be fishing, it's not unusual for the rock crab to grab onto the line and hold on. In this case bring a crab net along and scoop them up.

BOATS

Same methods described above, but it's unlikely that you'll be fishing from a boat in mid-winter.

SHORE LINE/SURF

Cast out a line (from a fishing rod/reel or just a line) baited with clams or squid. Wait awhile and reel in slowly. They'll come right up onto the beach. I've had some enjoyable moments during January and February, weather permitting, picking up these crabs while getting on early jump fishing for flounders. My favorite spot is the westmost channel on the bay side of Tobay Beach. In addition to picking up a few flounders it's not unusual to pick up a bucket of rock crabs in an hour or two.

During the spring, it's also quite humerous or annoying, depending upon your outlook, to be fishing the surf with a bottom rig and end up hauling 2, 3, 4, or more rock crabs which have become entangled in the line. The sad part about it, however, is that many fishermen throw them back, or worse, throw them up on the beach to die and decay or be eaten by sea gulls. It's quite a waste, and a shame because of the wasted food value.

Regardless of the method chosen for catching them, one fact is apparent: they are generally caught in multiple numbers. However, as with any fishing judgement should be exercised in the quantity and size taken. Please don't take more than you can possibly eat, and don't take them unless they measure 4 to 5 inches across the back (the rationalization that "it's for the sauce" is passee, particularly if you want to continue to be able to catch them in the future.)

So, keep in mind that you can enjoy crabbing (not being grouchy) through the winter. Try for some rock crabs.

WINTER STRIPES

(Continued from page 8.)

grows in profusion along here. Therefore I stick pretty much to the swimming plugs, floaters mostly but the sinking Rebels for a little more distance in the wind.

Bait fishing Crabmeadow with nylons produces some nice catches. This is better at night, as is all bass fishing, but daytime also is productive. Once the tide falls off a couple hours, forget it, it's too shallow. If you want more, move to the outside of the Bar. The standard fish finder rig, with cork, is used. Since there is little current, 2 or 3 ounce sinkers is all you will need. Remember the fish are generally small, so use the appropriate hooks. 2/0 Eagle Claw, maybe?

As I mentioned before this water is cold, so if you want to be more comfortable wear thermal underwear and wool socks. Your waterproof top will also stop the wind and minimize the amount of water in your boots if you do trip over a rock. I have not found or heard about any sharp drop offs or deep holes here but take it slow and quiet, work the area as you go.

Once in order to straighten my line I made a cast behind me, with the wind. You guessed it, Wham!

As I mentioned before a strong northwest wind is what you want but this will dirty the water. This does not bother the fishing as long as you can keep your lure free of weed. In order to cut down on the number of grass catchers and reduce the damamge to the fish, since most are released, I remove the middle hook on the Rebels. I've been told this will change the action of the plug which it might do but they still catch fish.

If you are tired of preparing for spring and need some fresh air give it a try.

Wildwood

by Gerald Hahn

I often see photos of angler who catch 6-10 lb. blackfish or 3 lb. humpback porgies from a boat. Big deal! At Wildwood, you can catch these from the surf. In addition, you have the bonus of fishing along one of the most beautiful beaches on Long Island's north shore. Widlwood is a state park, located between Wading River and Riverhead. Camping is available here during the regular season or you can fish here for a day during the summer for a $2 fee. In fact, if you give this place a try and find it to your liking, you might consider a camping trip here next year because it is available until December 1st. All during the fall and winter, you can fish here for nothing. The only restriction is no fishing after dark. To get to Wildwood, take the L.I.E. to exit 68, Wm. Floyd Parkway and head north to Wading River. At the end of the Parkway, turn right (east to Wading River) onto Rte. 25A Signs will direct you from here within a few miles.

The beach at Wildwood is defined by a cliff that descends onto it about 40 yards back and is visible as far as the eye can see in both directions. The beach and Long Island Sound here are dotted with numerous clusters of rocks and boulders which become more pronounced as the tide ebbs. Weather permitting, you should plan on seeing a sunrise or sunset here, and preferably, both.

In comparison to fishing along one of the south shore inlets in this area, Wildwood is less dramatic. The surf is generally calmer and the fishing can be slower. However, the sheer size of the fish will more than make up for the greater numbers that you may catch elsewhere. In addition, although the bottom is rocky, snagging is not as problematic. For example, I went blackfishing many times this fall along the south shore jetties, e.g., Shinnecock and Moriches Inlets. I could count on a good haul at these places, anywhere from 10 to 25 fish between ¾ of a pound to 3 or 4 pounds along with an occasional larger one, before my last rig would be given up to the rocky bottom "in payment." The force of the ocean currents and the rocks would inevitably make me feel that I had put in a good day's work for my catch. The first time I went blackfishing with a friend and my son at Wildwood, in September, we caught 8 tautog within a few hours during a brief flurry of activity. It doesn't seem like much, however, the smallest fish weighed 3 pounds and the largest 8. In addition, we saw at least a half a dozen others catch the same between 7 and 9 pounds, and we only lost two rigs. Again, though, let me state that patterns are not consistent here because it is open surf and there is no inlet. On other days, the fish were more erratic, sometimes not showing up at all, or else congregating in one confined area exclusively. It was not unusual to find a number of anglers going home with only a few fish while discovering one who had caught over 20.

Most of the fishing at Wildwood, for all species, is done within a half mile stretch of beach, east of the entrance from the park. (See illustration). The best area (A) is generally considered to be at the east end where a rock cluster looks deceptively like a jetty from a distance. The bottom is rockier here and the water swirls a little more unevenly as a result. However, any of the other rock clusters (B and C) closer to the entrance can produce equally as well or better. There is no consistent pattern other than finding out for yourself through trial and error. An area that produced well last year may not this year and I have seen different spots within this half mile produce from day to day. This summer, the humpback porgies did not come in with the same frequency as the previous summer, but blackfishing was excellent during the spring until mid-July.

For those of you who are hardy and can find a reasonably warm day, give this area a try, now. Blackfish have been caught here in the past into January and flounders have been moving in at a slow but increasing pace. Another thing to consider which even "regulars" who fish this part of the north shore do not know is that blues are caught at Wildwood during the fall and weakfish during the spring. Most people who fished for blues in Rocky Point, Mt. Sinai, Port Jefferson, and Shoreham, think of Wildwood as a place to bottom fish for tautog, porgies and flounders. All during September, October, and November, I saw only a couple of anglers fishing for blues at Wildwood while 30 to 50 anglers crowded the Shoreham jetty for the same. During this period, I went to both places and saw about the same number of blues (only a few) caught each time. The odds against catching a blue at Shoreham were 40-1 while at Wildwood, it was 3-1. If there are any stray blues or striped bass around—and considering the warm weather we had, it is still a good possibility—you should consider bringing along an extra rod to fish for these with eels, mackerel chunks, fish fry, or strip bait while you use the other for blackfish and flounders.

While blackfishing here seemed to produce better generally with fiddlers or green crabs, I saw many anglers do as well with worms. I would consider trying a combined rig (in tandem) using a smaller sized Virginia and a larger Chestertown hook which will keep both possibilities open. All along this area of beach, there is a sandbar within reach and mussel beds even closer to shore. Use a 3 to 4 oz. bank sinker around 3" below the rig and cast it between the two, reeling in a bit every so often to cover the most productive areas. This is not a place for light tackle. A 9' surf rod should be used with matching reel and 20 lb. test mono. A barrel swivel is best not only to provide strength should you hook into a lunker but also for freeing snagged rigs. Should you wish to try the long-shot (blue or striper) at the same time, any standard bluefish hook (no. 6 to 8) on a wire leader or bass rig with a float and again, the 4 oz. bank tied 6" to 8" below will be adequate. Generally, the outgoing tide produced better for blues while the incoming seemed better for tauog. However, I have witnessed enough catches here, of both, to state that this rule is far from firm—as long as the water is moving. you can fish here even on a windy day as long as it is coming from the south. The cliff will block the wind and the water will be calm. If winds are a from the north, forget it—besides freezing, you will find the water too rough and unclear.

A Unique Breed

by Ron Onorato

In my years spent along the waterfront I have come across many different kinds of fishermen. The bottom fishing specialist, the offshore and big game specialist all pale beside this individual. He is known amongst other things, as the bass fisherman.

What is it that really separates the bass fisherman from the average fisherman. You may say, "Surely the tuna and marlin fishermen have the patience." But yet there is no real comparison. Even the tropical fishermen who seek bonefish and permit on the flats have been likened to the striper seeker. These individuals are like Sunday fishermen to the degenerate bass fisherman.

When does this transition take place? Few fishermen start their careers by bass fishing. Usually they start out bottom fishing and then slowly work their way up to number one. After spending some tme with the lesser species, he one day says to himself, "Is that all there is" and then the change occurs.

If the fisherman choses to first go after the bass on his own; many, many years may pass before that first fish is brought to gaff. Some seek the advice of thier elders who have spent many hours on the beach. Either way, he learns.

Then it happens, one day everything goes right and he is in. The first bass of a lifetime. Forgotten are the long, miserable hours that have preceeded this joyous moment. For the moment he is in euphoria as he stares down at that magnificant creature which for so long eluded him.

Some say that moment is the beginning of the end for that poor soul, but he realizes that this is no end but the start, the start of another realm.

All traces of normalcy seem to disappear from him. His eyes become attuned to the wind and the tide. His mind slowly concentrates on just one thing, eliminating all the other unimportant things in life. By contrast, the ordinary fisherman seems normal compared to this fellow.

Life takes on a different meaning now. The change is quite evident now. His wife and family rarely see this man. Slowly his friends disassociate themselves from this motley character and only fellow bass fishermen will have anything to do with him.

Every waking moment is now spent in pursuit of his fish. With bloodshot eyes and a two day old stubble on his face, he makes excuses to the boss why he can't go to work that day or that night. While the rest of the world continues, he is out seeking the elusive prey.

At the time of the spring and fall migrations, he is at his best. Night, day, and in between he is fishing. Regardless of the success he has, he goes, "Surely if not today then tommorrow, or the next day I will find them" he muses to himself.

After the spring migration is over and bass fishing slips into the summer doldrums, he concentrates on nightime fishing. Pity his poor wife or girlfriend. Sweaty and mosquito bitten he returns home empty more often than he catches fish, yet he is undaunted.

Then it comes, after an eternity. The first northeast storm of the fall, and it starts all over again. Weeks pass and he is out; on days the average fishermen would spend in bed the bass fisherman is in heaven. The quest continues until all the leaves have long since fallen from the trees. From a pitching, rolling boat or from white water of the beach he can be seen casting big plugs or slinging eels. He is equally at home in Montauk Point or the jetties of Rockaway.

Eventually that dread time of the year comes, winter. He has made his last cast and the time to hang his rods has arrived. If he has money, he may spend the winter in Florida, but for the majority this is out of the picture.

As winter wears on, rods are built, plugs are made, and waders are patched. Fantasies and memories of the past season dance through his mind, and for the time being this fellow resembles a normal human being. Then spring arrives. Life has special meaning for the striper fisherman. Believe me, I know it well.

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Never Say Die

by Matt Ahern

I'm fanatic about keeping accurate records pertaining to my fishing trips. I believe in noting everything of interest in the hope that this information will be of possible use on future trips.

While checking tide information the other evening, I came across a notation I'd made at the conclusion of an entry concerning a spring flounder trip on Peconic Bay. At the end of my summation of the trip I had scribbled in the phrase "Never say die," no doubt to serve as a future aid and reminder should the need ever arise.

As I sat at my desk, and with the prompting of these records spurring my mind, I easily recalled the reason for the notation. The record referred to a beautiful morning in early May, unfortunately one on which I hadn't done too well with the flounders. According to my notes there were but three average-sized flatties in the bucket, and that the net result of two hours' fishing.

These records also showed that I certainly had had every reason to expect much better fishing. The week before from the same general area, nineteen flounders averaging well over a pound had fallen victim to my choice sandworms.

But that had been the previous week, and that week the sea robins were conspicuous by their absence; on this particular day, however, they were conspicuous by their presence. I can still recall the complete disgust I felt as I sacrificed my bait to some of the most monstrous sea robins I'd ever seen. To say I was discouraged and exasperated is to put it mildly.

It was still morning, far too early in the day to quit, and I made up my mind that to avoid doing so, I would try anything. I remember deciding to give it the old college try, this time near the entrance to the Shinnecock Canal.

This was the last choice I had. I had already fished my favorite spot near Robins Island, which had faithfully produced my three flounders just minutes before the sea robins took over. From there I had made tentative sorties off Cow Neck and Rose Grove, all good flounder-producing spots. Deep water, shallow water. It was all the same: sea robins galore.

I didn't fare any better near the canal—if anything, the sea robins were thicker. The flounders just didn't have a chance. There were no other familiar spots to try.

I intensely disliked the thought of pulling anchor and packing it in, but by the same token, I certainly had no intention of spending the rest of the day in aggravation. I roundly cursed the sea robins for their gluttony and decided to call it quits.

As I began to pack up, I remember that a sudden thought leaped into my fish-oriented brain: "What about the fluke?" It could be possible that with sea robins newly arrived, there might be some early fluke about. But where? It came to me then: Shinnecock Inlet. If fluke were anywhere, they'd be there.

No need to use one of my flounders for bait, no with all those sea robins down there. I rebaited and sent the rig to the bottom, where it immediately fell victim to two sea robins.

With hope soaring, I whipped the motor to life, snaked in the anchor line and in minutes was on my way through the canal to Shinnecock Bay.

I'd need a fluke rig. I pawed through my tackle bag and came up with one of last year's brainstorms: a plain, simple thing consisting of three feet of twenty pound leader material snelled to a 5/0 Sproat hook. Good. No fancy stuff for me. Keep it plain and catch fish.

Coming abreast of Bradley's Fishing Station, and with the first flush of impatience urging me, I toyed with temptation. I had caught fluke near here on more than one occasion. Should I try it? I finally decided against it. If necessary, I could always back-track. My mind was set on making that first drift near the inlet.

Out in the open bay, I allowed the skiff to drift while I took time out to prepare the bait. Grasping a sea robin by the head, I made a cut at the vent, stopping at the backbone. I sliced along this to the tail and lifted off a slab of grayish-white meat. Once more on the other side; in thirty seconds I had two pieces of what many fishermen consider to be the best fluke bait known.

Slicing these two pieces in tapered halves, I now had four baits. Using one of the slices having the whitest skin, I ran the hook once through its widest end. The skin was tough, yet limber. Any fluke stealing would have to be one smart cookie.

Nearing the inlet, I slowed down and planned my strategy. In the distance, close to the inlet's east bank, a cluster of angler-laden skiffs seemed to be flounder fishing. With the tide dropping, I found the current not so strong as expected.

A hundred feet out from the piers and wharves sheltering the commercial trawlers, I placed the skiff across the current and began my first drift, jigging in one foot lifts as I moved along.

Ordinarily, I like a medium-weight spinning outfit when fluke fishing around inshore waters, but at the moment I had no choice. I had to make do with a light flounder outfit. The ten pound mono was okay and I could get by with a four-ounce bank sinker, even if it did put an unholy set in the light tip.

I completed the drift to the inlet's entrance with no takers.

I consolated myself with the thought that perhaps I was out too far. I'd try a little closer to shore where the water might posibly be a bit warmer. I ran back to my starting point and began the second drift, this time about fifty feet from the piers. The sea robin strip must have landed alongside my first fluke of the season: a throw-back, probably thirteen inches long. But a fluke, encouragement.

I recall that it was then I realized I had no net. Who brings a net when flounder fishing? Whenever this happens, fluke fishermen seem always to connect with outsized fish. It's like an omen, and knowing this I began to plan what to do should this happen. Nothing like that occured, however. What did was that in three hours I caught seven fluke from one and a half to nearly three pounds.

All these fluke were caught close to shore in approximately ten feet of water. Just before dead low tide, I tried a few casts close to some pier spilings and it was from there I took the two largest fish. It was evident they had been in search of bergalls, which are abundant in this area.

As I relived this experience in my mind, I realized I had nearly committed the cardinal sin of many fishermen. I've done it before, and I'm sure you have, too. We tend to give up too soon when th fishing turns sour.

I'll admit that if those early-run fluke hadn't been available, I'd have had a poor day—and I came within a hair of doing so. But the fact remains, we fishermen do become too discouraged too soon. If you doubt this, recall how often you've told "the fish started to bite right after you left".

I believe for a fisherman to be successful most times, he must be well versed in all aspects of his chosen sport. Not only should he be as knowledgeable as possible, but when he does run into an

off day, it's to his advantage to put that knowledge to use and to possess the determination not to give up. At least not until every avenue leading to the remotest possibility of putting fish in the bucket has been thoroughly explored.

Which all boils down to the old saying of "Never say die", which is so aptly put by many and so seldom applied.

I'm sure that if you take this adage to heart, you'll see your catch increase, Try it. It works.

FINNY MUSCLEMEN

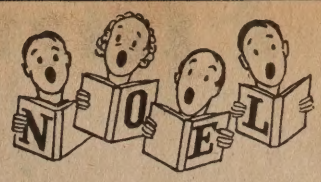
(Continued from page 16.)

know of the man against the sea saga that unfolded in my head. "So small? That fish will weigh-in somewhere in the teens." And so it did.

It's easy to lose your perspective in paradise. For one thing every stretch of beach holds fish. No matter where we walked we hit fish: barracuda, yellowtail, blue runner, and jacks. For another, each and every fish is fast, strong, and powerful. There wasn't a species that we caught that wouldn't out-fight our local gamesters pound-for-pound. Third, we were surprised that relatively few lures were effective. Although we transported several dozen species of lures to our Bahama retreat only 2 types really worked. The swimmers such as the Rebels, Redfins Rapallas, and Atoms were very good and so were the tube lures like the Tri-Fin Whiptails, eels, and eel-worms. When we ran out of tube lures (all the fish seem to be toothy, a slight problem in paradise) we fashioned some of our own from the raw materials we had brought. Luckily, Rich was here before and he knew from experience what tackle we'd need. One of the most important characteristics of homemade tube lures is their length. They have to be long flexible tubes not short ones. We made them between 12 and 16 inches long and added a 1 ounce egg sinker for casting distance. Sixty pound test nylon coated stranded wire from the hook, through the egg sinker, and finally extended about 12 inches beyond the tube completed the lure. Usually the egg sinker held its position because we had to jam them into the tubes. But for the slightest larger tubes we crimped a sleeve immediately forward of the egg sinker and all was secured.

The tubes must spin and not undulate. The wilder is their action the more frantic seems to be the response of the fish. Therefore, we used an extremely rapid retrieve. High speed reels are a help in this respect. One other item if you plan a trip south. Bring reels that hold as much line as possible and maybe you'll land a few.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



The staff of The Long Island Fisherman would like to wish all our readers tight lines in the coming New Year!

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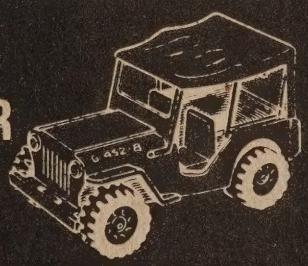

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Finny Musclemen

by Dr. William A. Muller

Ladies and gentlemen, I have recently had one of the rudest awakenings of my life. The revelation is that our local gamefish are weaklings, that's right you heard me weaklings!

After many years of broken plans and dreams, my wife and I finally sampled the fishing in the Bahamas at a resort island called Walker's Cay.

As usual I am first and foremost lured to the surf, so 5 seconds and 3 unswallowed mouthfuls after lunch I was making tracks for the shoreline. Since I was completely unfamiliar with the area I headed for the closest place where the land and sea meet.

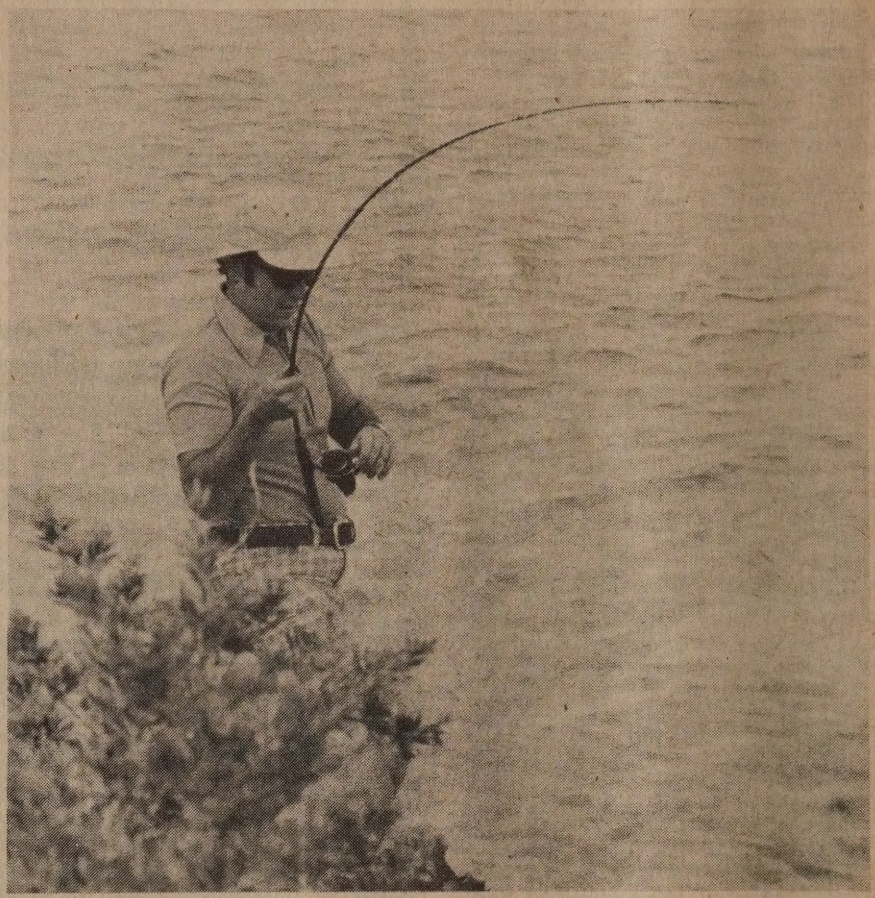
For some reason I really expected the fish to be over eager to commit suicide on my line. When the 1 ounce Whiptail came back untouched I was a little surprised. So I made another cast. I was retrieving casually this time, looking around absorbing the multicolored even tempered tropical scenery when something shot out of the shadow, smashed the tube lure, and took off on a tear. Now, I wasn't surprised, I was in shock! At this point in the battle all that I was accomplishing was holding on to my limber seven foot stick trying to prevent the fish from dragging it out of my hands. It was clear that there was a real danger that I might be stripped. I tightened the drag a little but the fish continued to run away with the lure.

I was confused to say the least. Was this a giant? Was this a shark? "Hey, What's going on here?" But nobody answered. They were all too busy trying to negotiate the coral and snap a couple of photos of my awestruck face at the same time. I tried again. "Rich you've fished here before, what is ti?"

I looked at the spool and the black was coming up. In all my years of catching bass, blues, and weaks on tackle that ranged from meatsticks to toothpicks I have never been stripped by a northern species.

The moment of truth was at hand when the fish took the line to the knot, the beast would either turn or break. Right about now Nick the Greek would have made the odds about one million to one for the fish!

Somehow it all seemed so commercial even to me. I looked at the rod which bore the stress of an incredible bend and I was sure that it would shortly splinter. But suddenly I began to take line back inches at a time. Ten minutes later the fish was close to the beach. Then the beast took all but a few yards of line again.



I hold on tight and push the tackle to the limits of its endurance.

Now I was embarrased and hurt. I was almost helpless. Sure I held the rod correctly and I pushed the gear to the limit of its endurance, but there are no trick manuvers when a fish takes almost all your line within seconds. There were no recollected experiences that could be applied here. I was a "babe in the woods." I felt like a rank amateur. By now my companions were enjoying the fight. They chuckled and hee-hawed while the look on my face grew more solomn.

"What the hell, if I hooked this fish on my second cast, who knows what I'll catch next." My exclamation made no sense to any one but me, yet it made them laugh anyway.

Well, still more surprises in paradise! The fish stopped and within a minute or so I had it close to the beach. The gaffed barracuda was handed up to me on the coral where I was perched for the fight. I stood there looking at the fish. Somehow compared to my fantasies the fish was small. Wow, what a let-down.

"Gee there fish are powerful." Translation—Boy, I sure thought that the fish was bigger than that!

"I told you that these reef fish are fantastic!"

Suddenly I blurted it out. "But the fish is so small!" Obviously Rich was not privy to my dreams. He did not

(Continued on page 15.)

LONG ISLAND FISHING PIERS & DOCKS

by Stu Miller

"Pier fishing"....a good number of anglers take part, as either a portion of their fishing routine, or all of it. Tackle that you see being used ranges from the simplest drop line to expensive surf outfits and even heavy boat rods. The atmosphere is perhaps the friendliest and least competitive of any type of fishing, and fish caught are truly appreciated by the angler involved.

The actual intent of this piece is to name and locate many of the docks, piers and bulkheads which we have in our reach, which can be comfortably fished and where wives and kids can tag along (if that's your thing).

Catches vary from pier to pier, so try several...or try 'em all. Here goes:

Brooklyn—Sheepshead Bay Piers (fish the ends); Coney Island Pier (It's the closest we can get to a true fishing pier); Canarsie Pier (just off the Belt Parkway); "The Narrows" sea walls.

Rockaway—Beach Channel Drive Seawall from Marine Parkway Bridge to Cross Bay Bridge.

Long Beach—Magnolia Avenue Fishing Pier.

City Island—City Island Bridge (no families); Orchard Beach Jettys.

Point Lookout—The Pt. Lookout Hempstead Town Marina.

Island Park—Various small bridges along Long Beach Road.

Howard Beach—North Channel Bridge; South Channel Bridge.

Baldwin—Milburn Creek Town Park (snappers and eels.)

Freeport—Cow Meadow Park; Town Park at foot of South Ocean Ave.; Parts of Woodcleft Canal and at end.

Merrick—Pier at foot of Merrick Ave.

Wantagh—Wantach Park Pier

Seaford—Seaman's Neck Park Pier; Town Dock (at Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station)

Amityville—Richmond Avenue Dock, Ocean Ave. Dock; Bayview Ave. Town Dock; Foot of Ketchum Ave; John Burns Park Dock.

Lindenhurst—Town Pier at end of Wellwood ave.

Copiague—Tanner Park Pier

Babylon—Bergen Point Dock; Pier at foot of Fire Island Avenue South, near village pool; Babylon Village Dock at foot of Fire Island Ave North (near Augies).

East Islip—Dock at foot of Great River Road.

Islip—Islip Town Dock

Jones Beach—Jones Beach Fishing Piers; West End, Inlet side.

Oak Beach—Bulkhead near The Store, faces Fire Island Inlet; also dock just across from The Store.

Captree—Captree State Park Fishing Piers

Fire Island—Fire Island Fishing Piers

West Sayville—West Sayville Town Dock

Patchogue—Town Dock at foot of North Ocean Avenue.

Bayport—Bayport Town Dock

Center Moriches—Union Avenue Dock

East Moriches—Smith Point Bridge (foot of William Floyd Parkway); Maple Avenue Dock.

Shinnecock—Shinnecock East and West jettys; Ponquogue Bridge; Shinnecock Canal Bulkhead; National Golf Course, Peconic Bay.

Montauk—The Twin Montauk Jetties at foot of East lake Drive and West Lake Drive; Town Dock at end of West Lake Drive; Various Boat Docks with permission.

Sag Harbor—Fisherman's Wharf

Noyac—Noyac Town Dock and Ramp

Greenport—Railroad docks; mitchels dock; Old Shipyard dock and other docks; Greenport Jetty; Goose Creek Bridge.

Port Jefferson—Mt. Sinai Harbor Town Dock; Port Jefferson Harbor Dock (not legal).

Smithtown—Stony Brook Harbor Pier; King's Park Marina dock (on Nisaquogue River.)

Huntington—behind Halesite Fire Department building near Knutsons Marina in Huntington Harbor; Piers and Banks after 1st right turn (north) off Mill Dam Road past Knutsons Marina.

Centerport—Centerport Bridge

Port Washington—Town Dock foot of Main St.; Hempstead Harbor Dock at Beacon Hill; Bar Beach Dock at Beacon hill.

The Fisherman Library

BEST WAYS TO CATCH MORE FISH
by Vlad Evanoff

A complete guide to better fishing, virtually all you need to know to match your catch with the experts. The emphasis is on method, and every kind of fishing is covered. From small-mouth bass to striped marlin, here are all the secrets—an encyclopedia of fishing knowledge. 228 pages, photos and diagrams.

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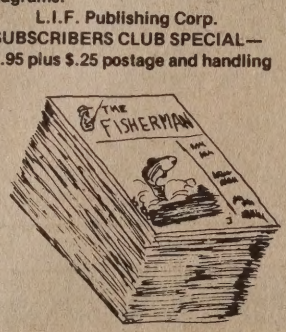

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Lester Behan called to tell us that he just got back from the shipyard at Palm Beach with the brand new **Peconic Queen III**. The maiden voyage will be made this Saturday at 5 A.M. for wreckfishing. The 105 foot aluminum boat features heated rails, 50 bunks, an onboard ships galley that will serve hot meals in the future, a well heated cabin, has triple screws and can do 20 knots.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** told us that the fishing has been fair for codfish and blacks in the Montauk and Block Island areas. Between 50 and 150 cod a day are being taken with 25 to 50 blackfish. The cod averaged 8 to 10 pounds with the pool fish over 30 and the blackfish run from 6 to 12 pounds. Paul also said it is now only a short ride to the fishing grounds.

Captain Dick Vigillant of the **Triton II** told us that there were very heavy seas on Saturday so he fished in Fort Pond Bay and loaded up on whiting and ling. Sunday's weather was a little better, but the fishing was a disaster with only 8 cod taken for the charter, but the day was saved with over 150 whiting. Dick said it was just one of those days.

HAMPTON BAYS

Licensed guides, Charlie Miller and Ernie Behrle want to report a good duck season so far. Except for one weekend, all their parties have been limiting out by noon.

Ernie, along with Bruce Oldeack, another guide who works with them, took Dr. Joe Scancarello and Ray Berkoski, from Southampton, out on Friday, December 12, 1975. The shooting was fast and furious and they took their full limit of birds, including four Broadbill.

Broadbill are starting to move into the bays in large numbers and it promises to be a good season for them.

The extra Broadbill season starts January 10th, and Ernie and Charlie will be taking hunting parties daily so make reservations now to insure a days shooting. Thye have two large floating blinds and a scooter. Call either (516) 728-6451, Charlie or (516) 728-0711, Ernie.

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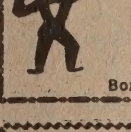
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The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman is holding a contest where our readers can win a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the 45 convenient locations listed below and pick up an L.I.F. litter box for the rear window of his car. Each week the license plate number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, just call *The Fisherman* by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received by the deadline, the cash prize will accumulate.

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CAPTREE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** told us that the codfishing was good during the week and only fair on the weekend. Forty to sixty cod were taken daily with the exception of Saturday and the pool fish has been between 35 and 47 pounds. Very few dogfish around and a sprinkling of whiting. Fishing has been concentrated two to five miles east of the NB buoy. The cod have been moving around that area every day.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that it was a productive week particularly on Christmas Eve when 12 people took 80 to 85 cod despite the very cold weather. High hook was 12 with an average of 3 to 5 fish per man ranging up to 25 pounds. On Saturday 20 people took 90 cod in 100 feet of water east of the NB buoy. Sunday's fishing was fair with the fish averaging 12 to 15 pounds and the pooler 25. George also told us that there were plenty of foreign trawlers working the area.

Fishing was slow on Saturday with only 35 cod taken, according to Captain Ben Litwin of **The Captain Litwin**. On Sunday 27 people took 65 cod up to 35 pounds southeast of the NB buoy in 110 feet of water.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

L.I.F. Staffer **Stu Miller** was out on the **Starstream** on Saturday and as a result packed away a stack of cod fillets. A good number of fish were taken with 2 cod nearly tied for the pool which were around 40 pounds each, nearly wrecking the scales of justice. As the Starstream touched back at the docks, there were 6 huge hangers along the port bridge railing.

Noteworthy on the trip was the huge number of foreign trawlers that kept steaming in all directions around our location S/SE of the inlet. Many photos were taken by your reporter, of the intruders from the east and hopefully will have them in time for next week's issue.

We are happy to announce that early this week a 288 ft. Polish stern trawler was bagged by the Coast Guard fishing 11 miles off Fire Island Inlet. This trawler was fishing for herring. Also a

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2nd foreign vessel was pulled in on Sunday. Thanks, Coast Guard. 200 Mile Limit, anyone??

Capt. Kessinger of the **Starstream II** said he has been doing fair this past weekend. Between the bad ground swell on Saturday and the foreign fleets cleaning everything out the **Starstream II** caught between 45 and 60 cod on each trip.

The **Dock One** had real good cod fishing in the past weeks said Capt. J. Hall. This past weekend the foreign fishing fleets were out in force and even dogfish was hard to come by.

The **Capt. Al** reported taking twice as many codfish on Sunday as on Saturday. Many of the anglers aboard had 3 or 4 codfish each. The fish were only up to 16 pounds but averaged a good 10 to 12.

ISLAND PARK

The **Ginnie Mae** had a fair weekend fishing for cod this past weekend. The cod are between 6 and 12 pounds with some up to 20 pounds.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Amberjack IV** reports they had a slow Saturday due to Friday's storm and the resulting ground swell. On Sunday it was no slaughter but good fishing. The pool fish was in the mid forties with many fish over 20 pounds.

Capt. Wrege of the **Chief** reported good Whiting and Ling fishing on Saturday. Hi-hook on Saturday was 20 with the rest of the anglers getting from 6-18 fish. Sunday saw poor drifting conditions. Consequently they had to anchor which brought the catches down to 5-10 fish per angler.

Plenty of whiting has been around before Friday's storm according to Capt. Butch of the **New Zephyr**. They have been working near the Ambrose Tower where they also picked up 3 cod between 6 and 12 pounds.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

HUNTINGTON

Don Constantine said this coming Saturday may be the final trip of the season. The blackfish have declined while the water is yet too warm for cod. They will try for cod but catches of them is questionable.

NEW ROCHELLE

The **Klondike VI** is sailing every day for whiting and cod. This past week they have done Okay on whiting with a few cod also being taken.

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Norman Dorf of Syosset caught this 26 lb. bass, drifting a white bucktail aboard Steve Catalano's "Big Banana" in Plum Gut. Subscriber Club Photo.

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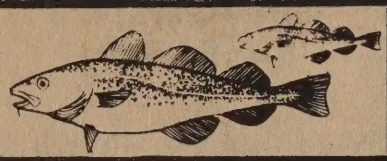

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Harry Rock holds a 41¾ lb. striper as Jimmy Roca looks on. The bass was taken on a live eel east of Silver Point. Some of the particulars are: the fish was taken at sunrise with a fish finder rig; 4/0 cod hook, SE winds 6 to 8 mph, water temperature 56-60 degrees, weigh-in took place at Beckman's Tackle. Don't rush out now, this fish was caught in November.

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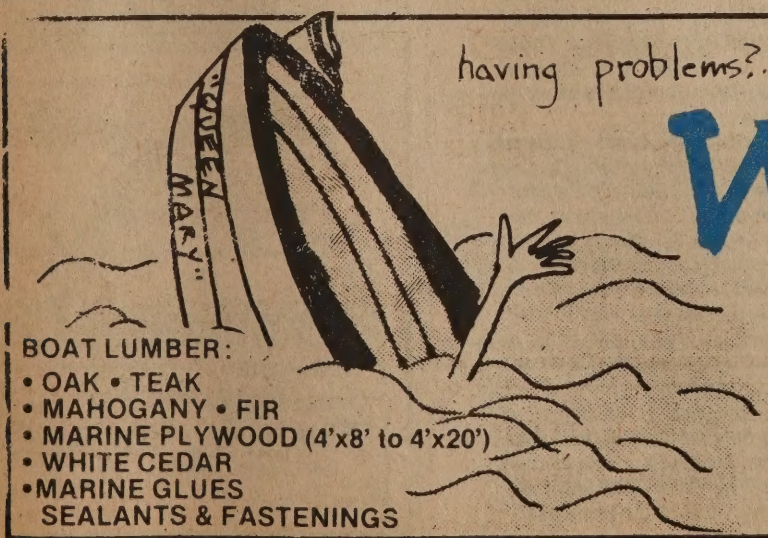

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Cordell Lure Notice

The Fisherman has received phone calls and letters by the hundreds from subscribers who have not yet received the Cordell lures offered in a recent subscription premium. These lures were to be shipped directly from Cordell factory in Arkansas.

Unfortunately, after repeated phone calls and letters by our staff to Cordell, with no apparent results, The Fisherman has proceeded with legal action against the Cordell Lure Co.

Should there continue to be a shipment problem, The Fisherman will purchase and ship, at our own expense, replacement lures.

We are greatful for patience and understanding of the subscribers involved. Future notices in The Fisherman will keep you informed of our progress.

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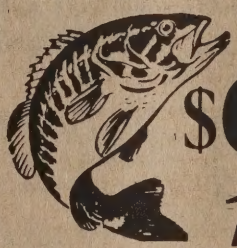

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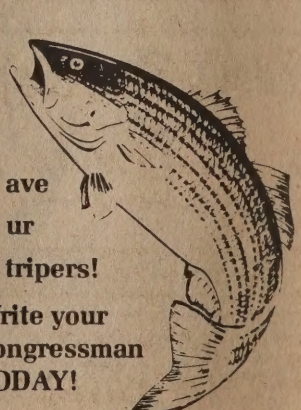

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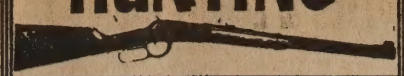

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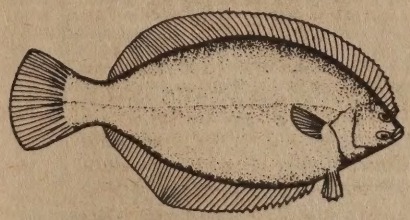

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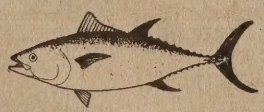
The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

Mr. George Hildebrand of West Babylon called into LIF a description of his car by the Friday deadline to become this weeks LIF Litter Box Contest Winner. Mr. Hildebrand has been sent a check for $10 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Captain Joseph Fleet out of Captree for his prize.

Diane Turco, 5, proudly shows off her first striped bass which was weighed in at 4½ pounds and was caught in Shinnecock. Subscriber Club Photo.



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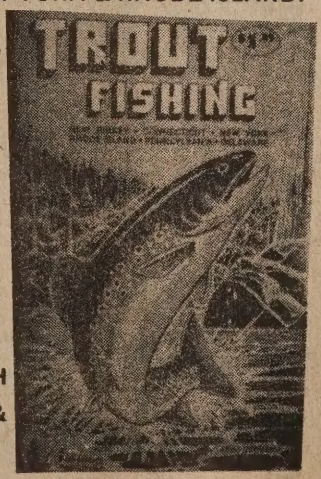

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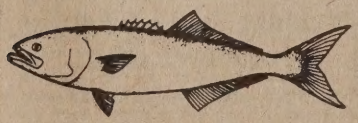
Mickey Stolze boated a 31 lb. bass and a 14 lb. blue on Lupo tubes aboard the "Linda I". These fish were taken in November.



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TIDE TABLES

	ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
	DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1/1	THURSDAY	7:18	7:43	8:45	9:17	11:14	11:47	10:42	11:13
1/2	FRIDAY	8:02	8:25	9:31	10:02	11:57	—	11:29	11:58
1/3	SATURDAY	8:44	9:09	10:15	10:49	12:29	12:34	—	12:14
1/4	SUNDAY	9:26	9:53	10:59	11:34	1:06	1:06	12:42	12:58
1/5	MONDAY	10:08	10:37	11:44	—	1:37	1:34	1:24	1:41
1/6	TUESDAY	10:53	11:19	12:21	12:29	2:04	2:07	2:07	2:24
1/7	WEDNESDAY	11:33	—	1:10	1:19	2:36	2:46	2:52	3:12
1/8	THURSDAY	12:04	12:18	2:01	2:11	3:18	3:31	3:41	4:00

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

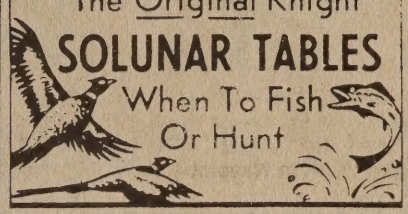
Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet −0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
1/1	3:45	**10:25**	4:15	**10:55**
1/2	4:35	**11:25**	5:10	**11:50**
1/3	5:35	:	6:05	**12:20**
1/4	6:35	**12:45**	6:55	**1:05**
1/5	7:20	**1:35**	7:45	**1:55**
1/6	8:10	**2:20**	8:30	**2:40**
1/7	8:55	**3:05**	9:15	**3:35**
1/8	9:40	**3:50**	10:00	**4:15**

PHASES OF THE MOON

1-1	1-9	1-17	1-23
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12-6	7:07	4:35
12-12	7:12	4:35
12-18	7:16	4:36
12-24	7:19	4:39

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